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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

## **Kapiti Island Māori writer's residency announced for 2009**

Kapiti Island will again host New Zealand's only known Māori writer's residency during Matariki, Māori New Year, 2009.

The **Tau mai e Kapiti Māori Writer's Residency**, funded by Te Waka Toi/Creative New Zealand and hosted by Kaitiaki o Kapiti Trust, was held for the first time in June and July 2008, allowing a Māori writer to live and work on Kapiti Island for eight weeks while being paid a stipend. John Barrett of the Trust says it's great news that the residency has received funding for a second year.

'The first **Tau Mai e Kapiti** writer in residence was Paora Tibble and it was great to host him,' says John. 'Paora worked on his te reo Māori novel for young readers. We're looking forward to applications from a new bunch of writers from all genres, and to hopefully helping another book into the world.'

The northern end of Kapiti includes the island's last remaining Māori-owned land, adjoining the internationally regarded predator-free nature reserve Kapiti is well-known for.

'The idea is that the writer gets a chance to hear some of the stories of this island, historical and contemporary, and to create their own writings in this extraordinary natural environment,' says Minnie Clark from the Kaitiaki o Kapiti Trust.

The northern end of the Island is currently the home of the Barretts and their extended whānau, descendants of the Ngāti Toa, Te Āti Awa and Ngāti Raukawa confederation. The Barrett whānau run the Kapiti Nature Lodge. The **Tau mai e Kapiti** Māori Writer's Residency takes its name from a pātere (chant) composed in the 1930s by Kingi Tahiwī, whose Raukawa whakapapa connects him to the Kapiti whānau.

The call will go out very soon inviting applications for the residency. The closing date for applications is 27 February 2009. The selection panel's decision will be announced in early April 2009.

### **For more information:**

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Ends